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January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

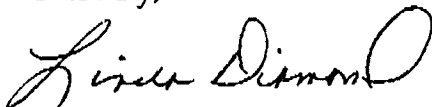
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to see the government stop interfering with the business practices of Microsoft, and I am happy to see this case has been settled at the federal level. The two sides reached a fair compromise in November of last year, and it is time to finalize that settlement and end this matter once and for all.

The government agreed to settle this matter because Microsoft agreed to change its operating system to allow independent companies a better chance to compete in the marketplace. Windows will be designed so that these other companies can promote their own products rather than Microsoft's, and Microsoft will not retaliate against its competitors in any way for promoting non-Microsoft products. There will be no more risk of anti-competitive behavior by Microsoft because a three person technical committee will oversee Microsoft's business operations from this point forward, ensuring that the company fully complies with all terms of the proposed settlement. I see no need to continue this litigation.

Once this case is settled, the IT industry will really benefit, and consumers will have more choices and better choices as a result. Competition will be strong, the industry will flourish, and the nation's economy will get a jump-start that it desperately needs. Thank you for settling this lawsuit, as it is the right thing to do for the industry and for the American economy.

Sincerely,



Linda Diamond